

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for decomposing a plastic, said method comprising:

treating a thermosetting resin which comprises a polyester and its crosslinking moiety, with subcritical water of a temperature lower than the thermal decomposition temperature of the thermosetting resin; and

recovering a compound comprising an acid residue derived from the polyester and a residue derived from the crosslinking moiety, obtained from the treating of the thermosetting resin,

wherein the subcritical water contains an alkaline salt in an amount of not less than 2 molar equivalents relative to the theoretical number of the moles of an acid residue which is contained in a compound comprising the acid residue derived from the polyester and a residue derived from the crosslinking moiety, obtained by the decomposition of the thermosetting resin.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the alkaline salt is a hydroxide of an alkaline metal.

Claims 4-5 (canceled)